

The BUZZ WORD



Each day be thankful for
Nights that turned into mornings
Friends that turned into family
Dreams that turned into reality
And Likes that turned into love

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions, Please Contact:

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robyn.boland@vermont.gov
802-447-6523



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



Happy Holidays!!

On Friday November 12th CMS updated their guidance around visitation and gave us an early Christmas gift: the removal of requiring outdoor visits during an outbreak.

The following are the important changes:

- Families can visit at any time **regardless of the presence or absence of active COVID-19** on the neighborhood.
- Family notification of positive COVID-19 cases will continue and adequate signage when a neighborhood has active COVID-19.
- VVH can require facial covering for the duration of a visit regardless of the vaccination status of the Veteran, Member, or visitor and the location of the visits when there is a high rate of community prevalence of COVID.
- VVH can require visitors visiting with COVID positive Veterans and Members to wear additional PPE, as deemed necessary, to reduce the risk of spread of COVID.
- VVH can ask the vaccination status of visitors, but we cannot limit your ability to visit if you are not vaccinated.
- VVH will provide education on vaccinations when requested.

The following remain in place:

- Screening via the Accushield Device or via a staff member is mandatory.
- Signing out at the end of the visit is also mandatory.
- Maintain social distance from staff, other visitors, Veterans and Members.
- Practice hand hygiene frequently during visits preferably by using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Hold off on visiting if you have respiratory symptoms, not feeling well, etc.

FAQs:

Does this mean I can visit whenever I like?

Yes, but if your loved one is receiving care you will be asked to wait until the care is completed.

How many people can visit at once?

For outdoor visits as many as you would like. For indoor visits please try to keep the number of visitors to 2 or 3. VVH reserves the right to limit the number of visitors to ensure compliance with the core principals of infection control.

If I am visiting a Veteran or Member who is positive for COVID-19 will VVH provide me with an N95 mask?

No, VVH is not required to provide fit testing or an N95 mask for these visits. VVH will provide you with a disposal gown, gloves, and face shield for these visits.

Will outdoor and tele-visits remain available?

Yes, these visit options will remain available, and we plan to proceed with the outdoor visit sheds to allow for this option in the colder months.

Will VVH be making antigen or PCR testing available for visitors?

No, we will not be offering testing. Testing can be arranged through your primary care provider, local pharmacies or via the Vermont Health Department Website:

[Testing | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://www.healthvermont.gov/testing)

Will VVH be opening the guest room for use now?

At this time, we will not be making the guest room available. We will continue to review our stance on this decision regularly.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season.

Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



To Our VVH Families and Friends:

You may have seen over the month of November several of our Veterans featured on CAT-TV. While this began to celebrate Veterans Day, we plan on continuing this relationship and hope to film several more interviews in the month of December with a goal of doing this on a monthly basis.

The holidays will again be different for us due to the continuing high levels of COVID in the community. Our Activities Department is planning unit-based holiday activities. As usual, the decorations are out in abundance. While we will not be having our traditional holiday gift program for the Veterans and Members, many area organizations have sent donations in the form of gifts or money for activities and these will be distributed.

We welcome and look forward to family visits over the holidays. Remember that if your loved one has a roommate, the visitation rooms will be available by appointment on Christmas Day. Otherwise, no appointments are necessary. You may bring in holiday decorations for your loved ones. However, remember that items that need to be plugged in must be inspected by Maintenance. Please let someone know if you bring in these items. Please do not bring in real Christmas trees or wreaths as these may be a fire hazard.

Happy Holidays and from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all your ongoing support over the past year .

Asa

Asa Morin, AIT, MSW, LICSW COO/Deputy Administrator (802) 447-6544 asa.morin@vermont.gov



The
Vermont
Veterans'
Home
Memorial
Cemetery



Thank you to Preston Hayes and his helpers who presented flags to the men and women who had honored the VVH by their presence.

GETTING AROUND IN STYLE

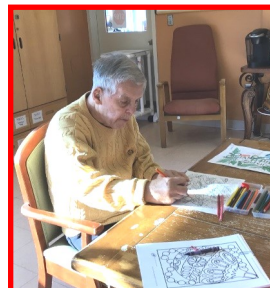
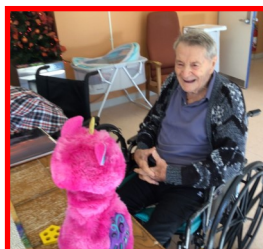
The Vermont Veterans' Home has a new golf cart to transport our residents. More folks can take advantage of the golf cart rides and see the sights while in the comfort of their wheelchairs. Veterans and Members do not need to negotiate stairs but are only a little step away or a ride up.



Meep!
Meep!



CARDINAL POINT ACTIVITIES

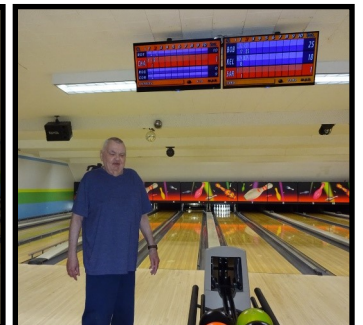




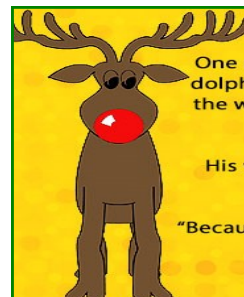
Painting ornaments on
North Village



Boys'
Night
Out



Taking
care of our
family,
one ride
or
two scoops
at a time.



One night a Viking named Ru-
dolph the Red was looking out
the window when he said, "It's
going to rain."

His wife asked, "How do you
know?"

"Because Rudolph the Red knows
rain, dear."

DONATIONS

Woodford School 7th Grade made cards, posters and other items



A variety of items were donated by
American Legion Auxiliary Post 13



Kamen Composites gave a tote with gifts from its employees



Sacred Heart School 7th Grade Students
brought hand-made cards

Artwork from our Veterans and members was displayed at the Bennington Museum and children visitors made cards for our Veterans for Veterans Day.





New Chapel on American Way

The Activities Department has created a mini-chapel for residents to assist in meeting their spiritual needs.

The Marine Corps Birthday is observed on November 10. It was created on November 10, 1921 by the U.S. Government to show appreciation for the United States Marines. Having taken part in nearly every U.S. conflict, the Marine Corps has defended our country since America's inception. The Corps, with over 186,000 active duty members and 38,500 reserves as of 2017, continues its proud tradition as protectors of the U.S. and its people.



246TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2021



VVH elves are getting ready to decorate for the holiday season.



Wait till you see what happens when they are done!!





On behalf of the
Veterans and
Members,
we sincerely thank
the following for
their generous
donations:

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
American Legion Auxiliary Post 13
Readsboro Community Library
Bruce Smolyn
Molly Stark School
Shaftsbury Elementary School
Bennington Elementary School
Sacred Heart School 7th Grade
Pownal Elementary School
VFW Post 1332 Auxiliary
Hilda Parks
Deborah Ploof
Renee Facto
Marilyn Ficalora
Gloria Toro
Tim Cumm
Steve Leach
Southwestern VT Healthcare
Auxiliary Personnel
Richard Shum
John Coffin
VFW Post 7823 Auxiliary
Hannaford Supermarket
Kaman Composites Employees
Preston Hayes and his Helpers

In Loving Memory of David Schroder

Mary Schroder

In Loving Memory of Winthrop Roberts

Green Mountain Submarine Veterans

In Loving Memory of Judith Somerville

Matthew Somerville

In Loving Memory of Lawrence King

Alberta King



**VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service**

ACTIVITIES

Kelly Brown — 32 years
Barbara Andrea — 2 years
Holly Bahan — 3 years

ADMINISTRATION

Melinda Crowl — 20 years

NURSING

Eunice Rice — 12 years
Laura Anderson — 8 years
Haleigh Dyer — 5 years
Sarah Ricciuti-Robinson — 5 years
Joan Gilpin — 1 year
Tasha Wright — 1 year



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
 - ♦ Email
 - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes Crafts
Neck Pillows Stamps
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU**

Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing. We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

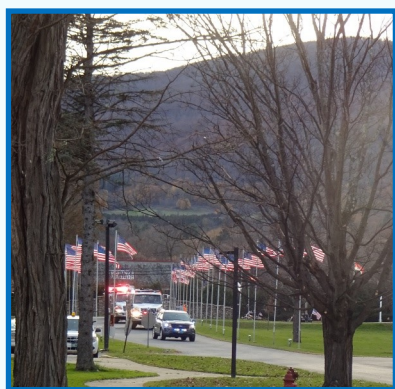
NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH



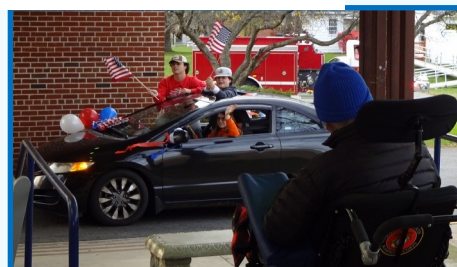
If you thought Rehab was all work and no fun then you really don't know the creative group called the Thera Band at the VVH.

They had Rocked to a 3rd Place finish for the Halloween Contest sponsored by Benchmark Therapies.



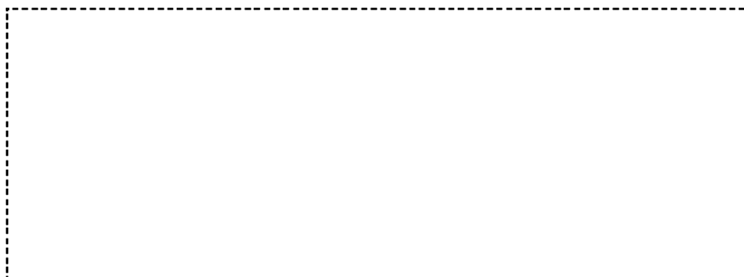
VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





“FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the Veterans of Vermont and their families”



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

